



PATENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND  
TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Burke et al.

Docket No.: 32277.0200

Serial No.: 09/267,176

Group Art Unit: 2161

Filing Date: March 12, 1999

Examiner: E. Cosimano

Title: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR A  
UTILITY PROCESSING SYSTEM

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Assistant Commissioner:

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed in accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97-1.98. One copy of each document cited on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 is submitted herewith. The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant reserves the right to dispute any of the listed documents as prior art during examination. Further, Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application. Furthermore, the submission of this Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made or that no other material information may exist.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed under 37 C.F.R. §1.97 (b)(3), before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, therefore no fee or statement is required. In the event that a first Office Action on the merits has been issued, please consider this IDS under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c) and charge deposit account 19-2814 the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p).

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If the Applicants have overlooked any fees, the Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 19-2814 for any deficiency in the fees required for the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. A duplicate copy of this Information Disclosure Statement is enclosed for this purpose. **This statement does not authorize the payment of the issue fee.**

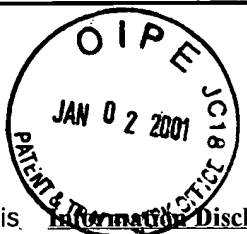
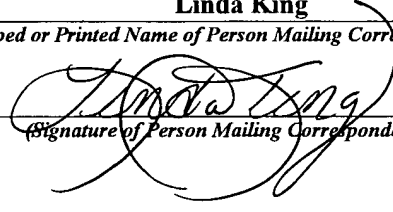
Respectfully submitted,

Date: 12/27/00

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<b>CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY FIRST CLASS MAIL (37 CFR 1.8)</b>			Docket No. 32277.0200
Applicant(s): Burke et al.			
Serial No. 09/267,176	Filing Date March 12, 1999	Examiner Edward Cosimano	Group Art Unit 2161
Invention: <b>METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR A UTILITY PROCESSING SYSTEM</b>			
<div style="text-align: center;"></div> <p>I hereby certify that this <u>Information Disclosure Statement</u> (Identify type of correspondence)</p> <p>is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: The Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on <u>December 27, 2000</u> (Date)</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Linda King</u> (Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence)</p> <p style="text-align: right;"> (Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Note: Each paper must have its own certificate of mailing.</p>			

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